

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 11 are presently pending in the application. A first Office Action was mailed on February 7, 2005. Applicant amends claims 1 - 11. No new matter is added.

OBJECTIONS TO SPECIFICATION

The title of the invention has been objected to as being non-descriptive. Applicant amends the title to read “DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CHANGING DATA FOR CONNECTION WITH AN EXTERNAL SWITCHING UNIT”, and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to in regard to various informalities. Applicant amends the specification to address these informalities, and respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO DRAWING

FIGs. 1 – 3 are objected to for failing to include designations as “Prior Art”. Applicant encloses proposed replacement sheets for FIGs. 1 – 3, both in marked-up and clean versions, to add these designations. Applicant also encloses a proposed replacement sheet for FIG. 29, both in marked-up and clean versions, to address informalities. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the proposed replacement sheets be accepted, and that the objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 112

Claims 1 – 11 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner cites a number of instances where claim terms lack sufficient antecedent basis, and a lack of clarity relating to whether a connection is being established among multiple switching units. Applicant amends claim 1 – 11 to provide sufficient

antecedent basis among terms, and to clarify that the claimed connection data change device is managing a connection between an associated switching unit and an external switching unit. Applicant accordingly requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1 – 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) as being anticipated by Canadian Patent No. 2,255,383 to Bosloy et al. Claims 1 – 11 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,295 to Burns et al., which claims priority from Bosloy. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The present application was filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) as a continuation application of International Application No. PCT/JP99/04075, filed on July 29, 1999. Under 35 U.S.C. §§120, 363, an International application may provide the basis for filing a U.S. continuation patent application, which is thereby entitled to claim the benefit of the earlier filing date of the International application as its U.S. filing date.

Canadian Patent No. 2,255,383 to Bosloy et al. has a publication date of June 4, 2000. U.S. Patent No. 6,665,295 to Burns et al., which claims priority from Bosloy, has a U.S. filing date of July 30, 1999, and an issue date of December 16, 2003. Based on the International Application filing date of July 29, 1999 to which the present application is entitled to claim benefit, Applicants respectfully submit that Bosloy must be removed as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §§102(a), (b), and Burns must be removed as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)..

Applicant submits therefore that amended claims 1 – 11 are therefore allowable. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §365(c), Applicant submits a certified English translation of International Application No. PCT/JP99/04075 to demonstrate that the present application is

entitled to be deemed a continuation application of International Application No.

PCT/JP99/04075.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: 100794-00096 (FUJI 19.210)

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